

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

DEC 20 2006

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name	Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church
Other name/site number	Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church / 045-0340-0132

## 2. Location

Street & number 1575 N. 600 Rd. ☐ not for publication  
City or town Baldwin City ☒ vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Douglas Code 045 Zip code 66006

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title  
Kansas State Historical Society

Date  
10/13/06

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ other. (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Douglas County, KS  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious facility, church

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: gable front rectangle

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Stone: limestone

Walls: Wood: weatherboard

Roof: Asphalt

Other:

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

### Period of Significance

1882-1907

### Significant Dates

1882

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Obediah, Henry, Lewis Jacob, Paul and Andrew Eberhart,

Isaac Hemphill

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Coal Creek Library, Vinland KS

Stony Pont Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Douglas County, KS  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	5	3	0	8	1	1	0	4	2	9	9	4	8	0
Zone	Easting					Northing									
2															

3															
Zone	Easting					Northing									
4															

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass

Organization Gray Grace Solutions

Date October 16, 2005

Street & number 8901 SE Ratner Road

Telephone 785-836-3401

City or town Berryton

State KS

Zip code 66409

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

Name Stony Point Church and Cemetery Association, c/o Mel Verhaeghe, Treasurer

Street & number 1538 N 400 Road

Telephone 785-594-6513

City or town Baldwin City

State KS

Zip code 66006

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Douglas Co., Kansas

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Description

The Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church (1882-1883) is located in rural Douglas County, KS, southwest of Vinland. The property sits at approximately 1575 N 600 Road on the NW 4, NE4, NW4, NE4, S. 20, T. 14, R. 20. Visible from N 600 Road, the church is accessed by a gravel land and is contained within a chain link fence and gate.

The church sits atop a dramatic valley, maintaining a western facade orientation. The site is treed with mature plantings. The cemetery stands to the south of the church, it contains thirty-five plots. The somewhat isolated and removed sitting of the church provides for a setting that has changed little over time.

The church measures 24' from north to south and 42' from east to west. The rectangular gable roof structure stands on a native limestone foundation. Its wood frame is sheathed with cedar lap siding. A composition roof installed in 2001 protects the building. In 2003 the asbestos tile siding applied in 1956 was removed and the original wood siding was repaired, primed and painted in 2005. A three step concrete platform leads up to the entry doorway. This modification occurred in 1901, replacing the original wooden porch.

Eight 4/4, double hung sash windows fenestrate the building. Three windows pierce the north and south elevations each, two windows fenestrate the western façade, framing the center door. The wooden, 4/4 paneled double entry door is surmounted by a three paned, fixed transom. Pedimented wooden lintels surmount the façade windows and center entry door. The windows measure 29 1/2" wide by 84" high. The double door measures 47" wide by 7' high, the transom window measures 47" wide by 24" high.

The building retains an original interior appearance. A row of pews stands on either side of the center aisle, pews for the choir stand on the north side of the raised altar. The interior walls measure 11' high, the windows are 34" above the floor. Tongue-and-groove, wooden wainscoting lines the walls below the windows. A wood floor runs lengthwise. The plaster walls are finished with a coat of green Alabastone, which was applied in 1935.

A historic wood-frame outhouse, date of construction unknown, is located to the rear (east) of the church and is contributing to the nomination. The relatively large acreage also contains a cemetery that is historically associated with the church but is not part of the nomination.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Douglas Co., Kansas

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## Statement of Significance

### Summary

The Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church (c. 1882-1883) is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A for its historical association with the growth and development of the Stony Point community in Douglas County, KS, and under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century, gable front, one-room house of worship. The church served the worship needs of a large, extended family of Eberharts and Hemphills, as well as other Vinland-area families, until the early 1900s. Maintained by the Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church and Cemetery Association since 1898, the building is used primarily during Memorial Day.

### History

Organized in 1860 as Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the congregation was one of the first Lutheran denominations in Kansas. Led by Rev. David Earhart, the 24 charter member parish worshiped in the log cabin home of Joseph Eberhart. Earhart was the second Lutheran minister to preach in Kansas. He led the Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church until 1868, and continued to work in Kansas until 1873.

Joseph and Catherine Kistler Eberhart emigrated from Pennsylvania to Kansas in 1854. Both had been born near Wurtemberg, Germany. The couple first settled in Pleasant Grove, Kansas and later bought land near Vinland from Jacob Branson. The Eberhart's produced 13 children, of whom most were actively involved with the Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church. At least four generations of the extended Eberhart family is buried in the church cemetery.

Efforts to raise funds for the construction of a larger church dedicated solely to worship began with Rev. Earhart's departure. The church council appointed Joseph Eberhart to solicit and collect funds for a church in October 1868. Eberhart's sons Obediah and Lewis Jacob, and their brother-in-law Michael Heming were appointed by the council to secure land for the new church and cemetery. Obediah, the eldest son, and his wife Susanna deeded land for the church and cemetery to the congregation in 1873. Before Joseph Eberhart died in 1882 he had personally donated nearly \$200 to the church fund.

Under the leadership of Rev. Daniel Scholl, the congregation built a 24' x 42' frame structure from March through December 1882. Joseph Eberhart's sons Obediah, Henry, Lewis Jacob, Paul and Andrew, and their brother-in-law Isaac Hemphill spent these months hauling rock, sand lumber and lime. A mason from the Ottawa area was hired to lay the foundation, with Isaac Hemphill assisting. Presumably the framing, wood and plasterwork were accomplished by members of the congregation, including the Eberharts and the Hemphills.

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Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Douglas Co., Kansas

Over a twelve-year period the congregation raised \$1,500 to cover the cost of materials and labor. An additional \$569 was raised to purchase a reed organ, which was installed in the church the day before its dedication.<sup>1</sup> Dedicated on November 18, 1883, Rev. Scholl wrote that, "This congregation built a very neat and substantial frame church, well furnished and in a good location." (*Lutheran Observer*, November 1883)

Rev. Scholl served the congregation from 1879 until 1898. Scholl ministered, baptized, eulogized and taught three generations of Eberharts. When he left the congregation both Joseph and Catherine and five of their children had passed away. In the succeeding nine years three more second generation Eberharts passed away. By 1905 many of the congregation members had either died or moved away, eliminating the need for regular Sunday meetings. The congregation continued to be served by Lutheran ministers until 1902, and then after that by seminary students. Entries in church records show that communion was last offered in 1905, and that the church had twenty-five members in 1907.

While the Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church's active use spanned less than a twenty-five year period, it served its congregation during a time of great growth for the Lutheran Church in Kansas. In 1878 there were two Lutheran organizations in Douglas County, including 90 members. The smaller congregation was Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Statewide the Lutheran Church boasted 4,560 members in 1878, by 1886 that number had grown to 11,651. In 1906, the Lutheran Church was the sixth largest denomination in Kansas, with a membership of 28,642.

Upon Rev. Scholl's departure as the minister of the Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church and Cemetery Association was formed. The association's incorporation in May 1898 also marks the time when the church changed its name to the Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church. The association was formed to care for both the church and cemetery and continues to function in that capacity.

After regular church services ceased, the Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church and Cemetery Association held its annual meetings at the church over the Memorial Day holiday. Minutes from these meetings contain information about replastering and painting interior walls in 1935, installing composition roofing and asbestos tile siding in 1956, erecting a chain link fence in 1968, constructing a stone gateway and hanging gates in 1975 and 1977, and painting the church's exterior in 1980. The church experienced a significant face-lift recently, a new roof was installed in 2001, the asbestos tile siding was removed in 2003, and the original wood siding was repaired, primed and painted in 2005.

<sup>1</sup> Offer to buy reed organ was considered by board of trustees in 1954. In 1974, the organ was loaned to Larry Craig family and sold to family in 1995 for \$600.

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**Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Douglas Co., Kansas**

The association celebrated the 78<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the congregation's founding and the 55<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the church's dedication in 1938. Three members of the 1883 church choir were present. In 1940 the association considered loaning, renting or selling the Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church to the Vinland Methodists, whose church has burned. Association members agreed to loan the church to the Methodist congregation for one year. The 1956 association minutes contain discussion about removing or replacing the building but all later actions proved to dismiss that idea. Currently, the association's membership is comprised primarily of interested citizens rather than descendants of the original congregants.

Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church stands as a reminder of 19<sup>th</sup> century building technique. Its simple, rectangular form and gabled roof offer a straight-forward image of utilitarian design. Facing west, the church sits on a hilltop overlooking a dramatic valley. Set off from the road and accessible by a private, gated lane the church is a visible landmark from the west. Although there are some newer homes in and around the valley, the overall and immediate historic setting of the Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church remains.

Built of wood frame construction the wood sided structure stands on a limestone rock foundation. The rocks are random laid and tightly fitted. Taking advantage of the hillside perch, the builders used the natural slope of the land to build the western front of the church almost to grade. As the building progresses eastward more of the stone foundation is exposed. The carefully planed and set narrow, wooden clapboard suffered little during the last 120 years. It holds its new paint as if it were a new building.

The main decorative features of the building are its windows and door. Pedimented wooden lintels surmount the façade windows and center entry door. The gently subtle design of the lintels adds grace and character to the understated structure. In addition, the 4/4 paneled, double wooden entry doors and the large 4/4 double hung windows that fenestrate the building add to its attractive appearance.

Well lighted by its eight windows, the building retains an original interior appearance. A row of pews stands on either side of the center aisle, pews for the choir stand on the north side of the raised altar. Wooden wainscoting lines the walls below the windows. Finished with a coat of green Alabastone, the interior looks much as it did in 1936.

The gable fronted, single-room building is an archetypal form. Its simplicity of form and relatively modest cost allowed this type to be built often for 19<sup>th</sup> century rural churches and country schools. With more than enough room for the 35 congregants who took communion in 1886, the 24' x 42' space offered functional and pleasing worship accommodations.



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Continuation Sheet**

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Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Douglas Co., Kansas

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**Bibliography**

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Cutler, William G. History of the State of Kansas. Chicago: Andreas, 1883.

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Lawrence Daily Journal-World. "Church Celebrates: Stony Point Congregation Commemorates Anniversary." November 27, 1938.

Pardee, Alice Griffis. "To the Memory of the settlers of Stony Point." (manuscript, n.d., c 1936-1940).

Scholl, Daniel. "Dedication in Kansas." Lutheran Observer. November, 1883.

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Stony Point Cemetery Association. The Second Book of Minutes of the Stony Point Cemetery Association, 1932-2001. Vinland, KS. Transcribed by Loretta Veraeghe, 2001.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10,11 Page 6

Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Douglas Co., Kansas

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is located on the NW4, NE4, NW4, NE4, S. 20, T.14, R.20 in Douglas County, KS. The property sits at approximately 1575 N 600 Road, west of Vinland. The nominated property measures 44' from north to south and 62' from east to west. This tract contains the church and a 30' perimeter around the structure. The nominated property is contained within a larger tract. The structure is abutted to the south by a cemetery, to the north and east by trees, and to the west by open fields. Visible from N 600 Road, the church is accessed by a gravel lane and is contained within a chain link fence and gate.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated church and outhouse are part of a larger tract that is historically associated with it. The cemetery that is historically associated with the church is not included as part of the nomination.

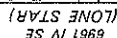
**Photographic Information**

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

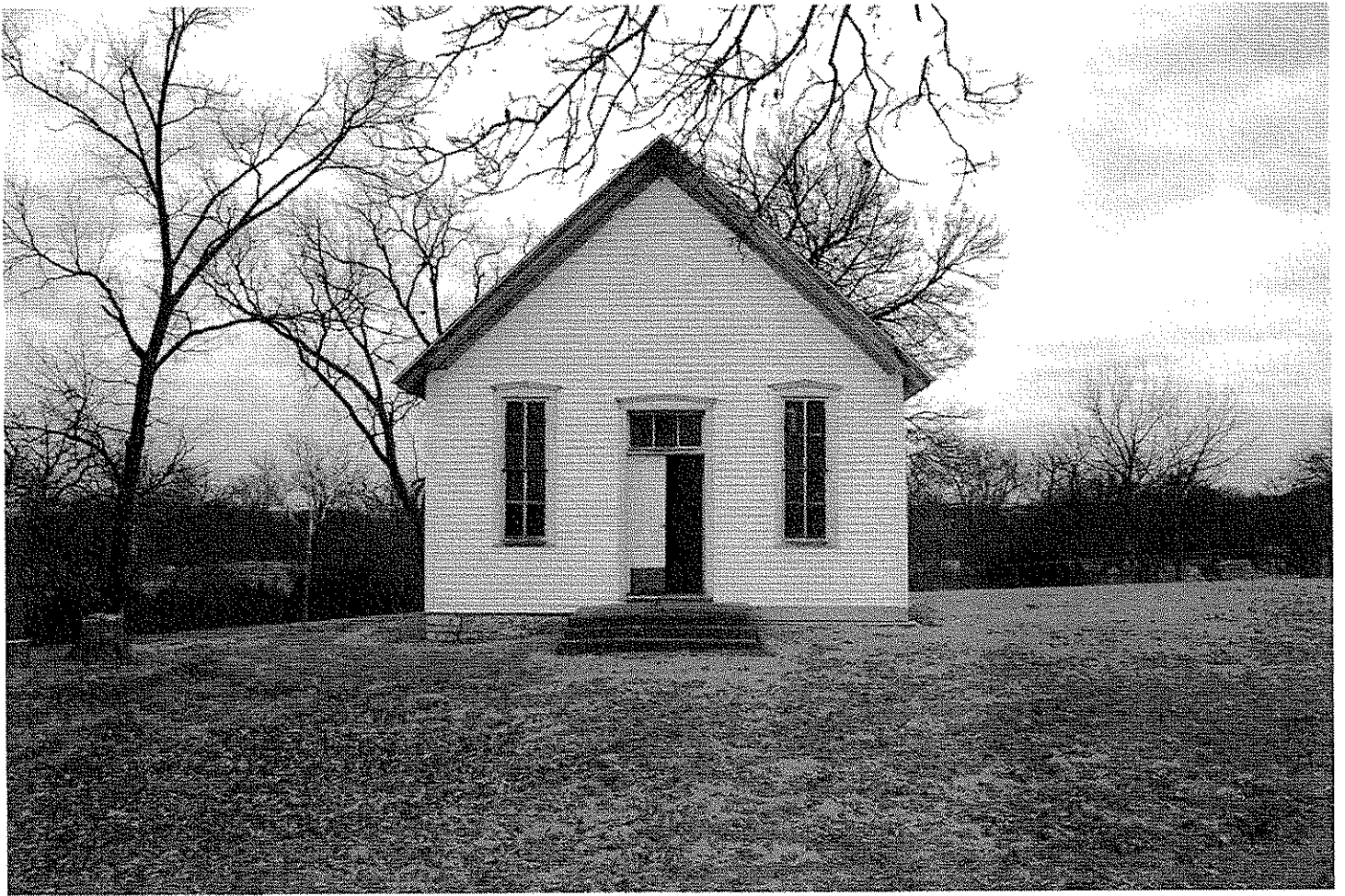
Stony Point Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Douglas County, Kansas  
Photograph by Patrick Zollner  
February 16, 2006  
Digital image archived at Kansas State Historical Society

The following information is specific to each photograph:

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description of View</u>
1.	View of front elevation from the west.
2.	View from the northeast.
3.	View from the southwest.
4.	View of front doors from the interior.
5.	View of interior from the west.
6.	View of interior from the east.
7.	View of outhouse from the west/southwest.

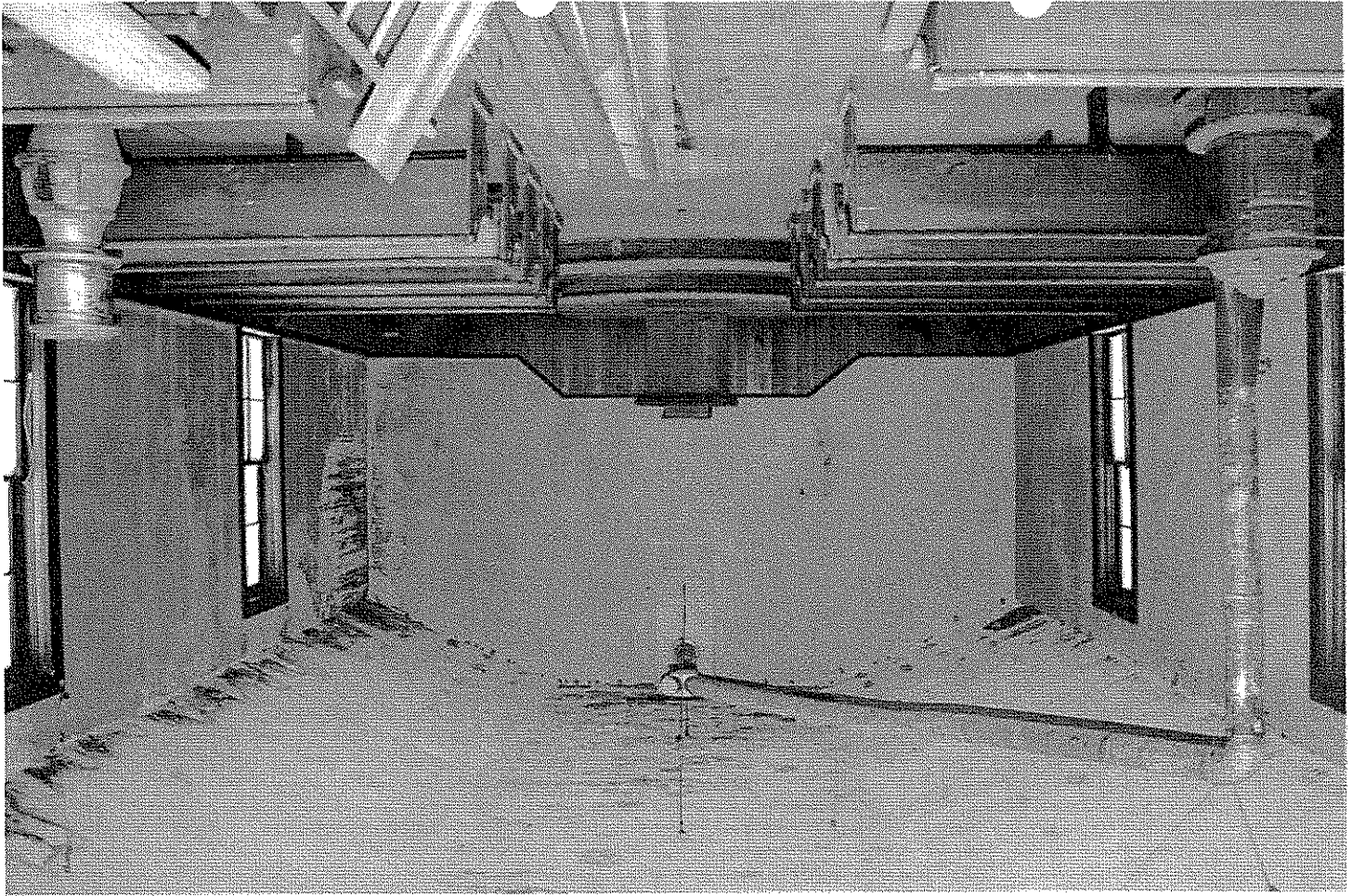






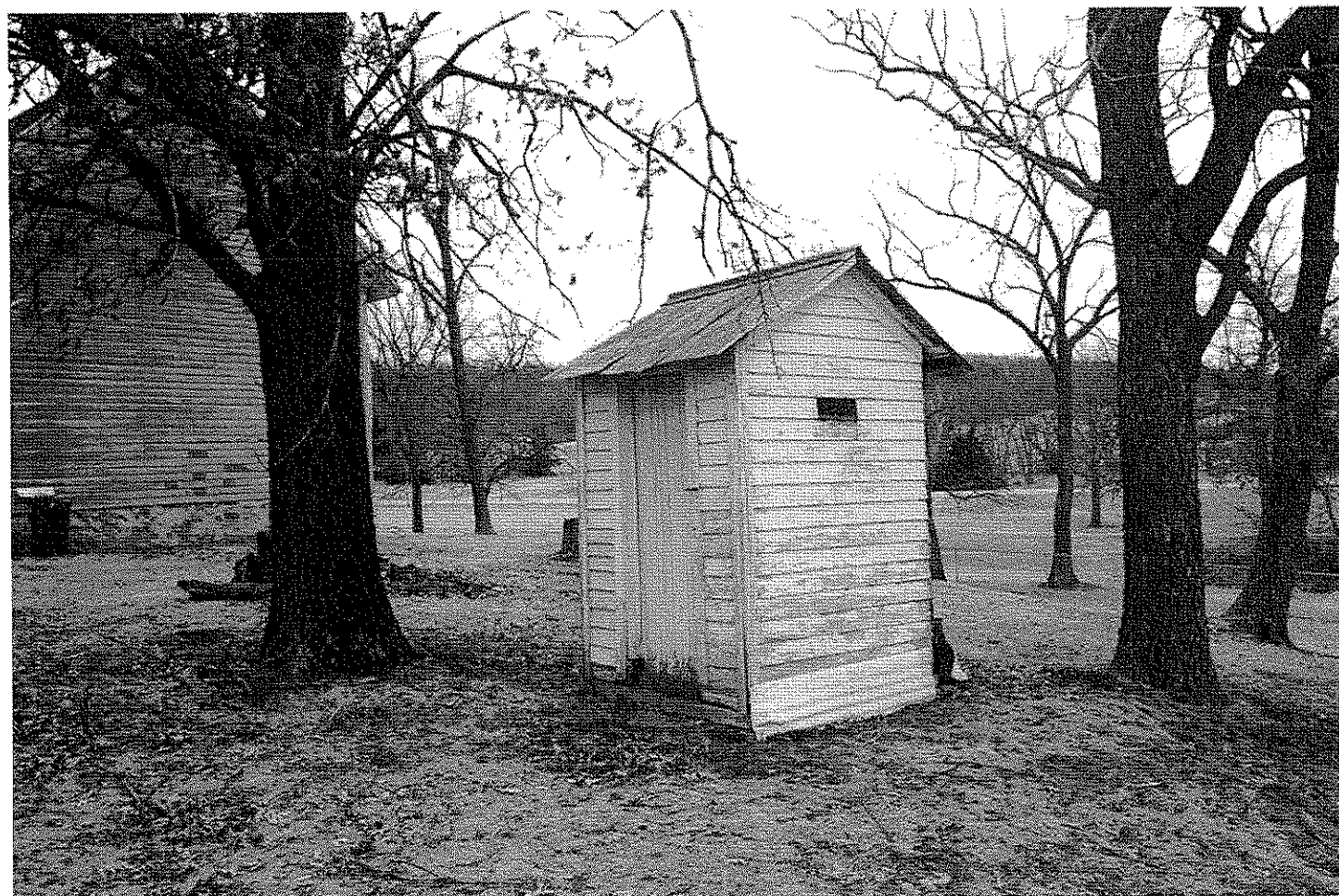












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